



## **Statement of Consulting Role**

**October 25, 1999**

Based on a contractual agreement signed on September 30, 1999, *g.c.r. & associates, inc.* will serve the lead role in the formulation and documentation of the Community Impact Mitigation Plan (hereafter referred to as mitigation plan) for the IHNC Lock Replacement project. In this role, *g.c.r. & associates, inc.* will be an agent of the New Orleans District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in establishing a community-based mitigation committee (CBMC). The CBMC will include representatives of community organizations and other stakeholders in the affected community. Its purpose will be to articulate and document the interests of the affected community in mitigation measures and their implementation.

*g.c.r. & associates, inc.* will also serve the lead role in the development and approval of a Partnering Agreement between the CBMC and the New Orleans District. The Partnering Agreement will clearly define the role of the CBMC as providing oversight and guidance to the New Orleans District's implementation of the mitigation plan. *g.c.r. & associates, inc.* is to provide the CBMC with the professional and technical resources necessary to develop the mitigation plan in an effective manner. This formulation phase will occur over the six-month period beginning November 1999.

*g.c.r. & associates inc.* and the members of the consulting team (including Metro-Source, L.L.C., the University of New Orleans, and New Orleans Area Habitat for Humanity) will serve as facilitators in the deliberations of the CBMC and its communications with the New Orleans District. Equally important, *g.c.r. & associates, inc.* will provide unbiased technical, professional, and administrative support to the CBMC in articulating, defining, and prioritizing primary elements of the mitigation plan to offset the impacts associated with the construction of the new IHNC lock, transportation arteries, and flood control structures.



*g.c.r. & associates, inc.* will also assist the New Orleans District and the CBMC in the implementation of a public information program to inform the affected community of the progress of the mitigation plan as well as project construction information.

Once an initial 3-year mitigation plan is established and accepted, *g.c.r. & associates, inc.* will continue to work with the CBMC and the New Orleans District to prepare annual updates and adjustments to the plan. These updates will be responsive to an assessment of ongoing community needs, construction schedules, and anticipated funding levels. *g.c.r. & associates, inc.* will support regularly scheduled meetings of the CBMC and will also be available to meet with neighborhood associations and the New Orleans District throughout the duration of the project to ensure that the appropriate level of public input is received and recorded as a part of the project initiative. *g.c.r. & associates, inc.* will provide complete documentation of the process, the mitigation plan, and its implementation to the New Orleans District.